

**BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF

CASE NO.

**Meddy Settles, Treasurer
Carpenters & Millwrights Local 256**

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2004-0083

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission pursuant to a complaint filed on November 1, 2004 alleging that Meddy Settles acting as the treasurer of Carpenters & Millwrights Local 256 ("Respondent") may have violated the Ethics in Government Act by exceeding the maximum allowable contribution limits, failing to register as a non-candidate campaign committee and failing to file campaign contribution disclosure reports for the year 2003.

Registration Requirements

During the year 2003 any person (not an individual) making contributions to Georgia candidates was required to register as a non-candidate campaign committee pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(e) if their aggregate contributions to and expenditures on behalf of candidates exceeded \$5,000.00 during the calendar year.

Reporting Requirements

During the year 2003, persons (other than individuals) making contributions to candidates were required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports in the same places and at the same times as required of the candidates they supported. O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(e).

Campaign Activity by the Respondent

During the period from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 the Respondent did not register or file campaign contribution disclosure reports in Georgia. Such reports were eventually filed in 2004.

Excessive Contribution

In 2003, the Respondent reported making aggregate contributions totaling \$3,932.87 contribution to a municipal candidate for the 2003 Primary Election in violation of the \$2,000 maximum contribution limit set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(b).

Violations

The Respondent admits that it failed to register or failed to timely register as a non-candidate campaign committee in 2003.

During the same period, the Respondent made contributions in Georgia totaling \$10,239.71. The Respondent admits it failed to disclose these contributions in violation of O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 and § 21-5-31.

Respondent admits that it violated the maximum allowable contribution limits set forth in O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(a) by \$1,932.87, in contributing \$3,932.87 to a local candidate in the 2003 Primary Election.

Sanction

The Respondent admits that its failure to register and disclose campaign contributions and the making of an excessive contribution, although the Respondent maintains that such failures were unintentional, constituted violations of the Ethics in Government Act as described herein.

The Respondent has incurred statutory late filing fees totaling Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) as a result of the failures to timely file the disclosure reports described herein, and the Respondent shall pay these late filing fees within thirty (30) days of the date of this order.

The Respondent shall pay civil penalties totaling Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) as a consequence of the violations described herein. The Respondent admits that it has committed violations of the Act sufficient as a matter of law to warrant civil penalties imposed herein. These civil penalties shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

All required registrations and campaign contribution disclosure reports required for the periods described in this Order shall be filed within thirty (30) days. Respondent has represented, and the Commission has relied upon such representation, that the contributions and expenditures set forth in the foregoing reports constitute a full accounting for all activity required to be disclosed in Georgia under the Ethics in Government Act and the Rules of the State Ethics Commission. This Consent Order resolves only the matters described herein, and it is not intended to, nor shall it be construed to include or resolve any other matters.

The Respondent shall cease and desist from any and all violations of the Ethics in Government Act and shall comply with all requirements thereof.

Conclusion

The State Ethics Commission accepts the foregoing admissions, statements, and conclusions of law as the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Commission orders the fulfillment of all requirements of the terms of this order.

Respondent consents to the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law and agrees to comply with all terms of this order.

Signature of Meddy Settles attested to on
this 20th day of September, 2006.

By: Alisha James
Alisha James

RESPONDENT
MEDDY SETTLES

for Meddy Settles
Treasurer, Carpenters & Millwrights Local
256

SO ORDERED this 21 day of September, 2006.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

By: Jack Williams
Jack Williams, Chairman